

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 have been allowed. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 7 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Great Britain Patent No. 2,331,869 ("Leijon"). Claim 7 has been cancelled. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of claim 1.

Claims 1 recites a means-plus-function limitation: "compact voltage grading means." "The 'broadest reasonable interpretation' that an examiner may give means-plus-function language is that statutorily mandated in [35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6]." *In re Donaldson Co.*, 16 F.3d 1189, 29 USPQ2d 1845 (Fed. Cir. 1994). In other words, as a means-plus-function limitation, Applicant's "compact voltage grading means" must be interpreted to cover the corresponding structure, materials, or acts in the specification and equivalents thereof. See 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶6. Thus, Applicant's "compact voltage grading means" should be interpreted to include at least a conductive strip, as illustrated in Applicants specification and drawings. Leijon does not anticipate claim 1 because Leijon fails to teach or suggest such a conductive strip. Based on at least this difference between Leijon and Applicant's invention recited in claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper or application, or if any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve such issue or question. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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